sewpowerful

Sew A Purse, Change A Life!

Cross Body
PURSE

Sew Powerful Purse Project
Cross Body Purse Pattern
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Special Thanks...

Thanks to the amazing volunteers, regional coordinators, and sewing enthusiasts around the world! Together we are changing the lives of girls and women in Lusaka, Zambia! We couldn't do it without you! Together we really are Sew Powerful!

Our Mission....

We exist to combat extreme poverty in a very challenging place called Ngombe Compound in Lusaka Zambia. We do that by equipping community members with jobs as well as training, tools, and technical skills to make what we call "Purposeful Products". Products that can bless local children and empower their academic success.

The Sew Powerful Purse Project...

We are working hard to link seamstresses from around the world to combat extreme poverty by providing re-usable feminine hygiene supplies and health training to girls in Zambia. This enables them to attend school all month and improve their academic performance.

Our Unique Product Packaging, The Sew Powerful Purse! You might wonder why we ask seamstresses from around the world to download our Sew Powerful Purse pattern, sew purses, and send them to us. The answer is simple. We need the help and support of the global sewing community to tackle this issue. We also need a beautiful product package, and what is more beautiful than amazing hand-made purses? So involving the western seamstresses accomplishes these two vitally important goals. We are very lucky to have our International shipping donated by a very large non-profit.

Sew a Purse, Change a Life...

Make as few or as many purses as you'd like. Take your time and make them as nice as possible. We want quality purses! The girls like cute and colorful purses. Share your passion for this project with us and others on social media with **#sewpowerfulpurse**

This makes a great and very meaningful sewing group activity! Check out the Sew Powerful website for group activity resources.

Include A Special Note...

Include a kind greeting in your purse. Write something special to the girl who will receive your work. Maybe a poem, scripture verse, prayer, or word of encouragement. These cards are an important part of the program and each girl looks with anticipation in the purse to see what the sender has written – make it special!

Send Us Your Purses...

USA Shipping

Sew Powerful
16640 SE Old Petrovitsky Rd.
Renton, WA 98058

U.K. Shipping

Sew Powerful c/o Sandy Simm
16 Norman Court Whatton Road
Kegworth, DE74 2FE, UK

For More Shipping Options:

Visit the Sew Powerful Website:
https://sewpowerful.org/pages/where-to-send-your-sew-powerful-purses

Pattern Information

Supplies Needed:

- **Fabric For Purse Body**
  - **1-1/2 yards 44" width OR**
  - **1/2 yard 54" - 60" width**
- **Fabric For Purse Lining**
  - **1/3 yard 44" width fabric**
- **Interfacing (optional) -** 1-1/2 yards if strap is interfaced (Pellon® SF101 or comparable woven interfacing)
- **Pins**
- **Thread**
- **Turning Tool (or Bobby Pin)**
- **Iron and Pressing Tools**

- **Optional (but recommended) 1" x 52" webbing to use in place of the fabric purse strap.**

Suggested Fabric:

Purse Body & Strap: twill, denim, duck, faux leather, suede, corduroy, or any other mid- weight fabric.

Note: *If quilting cotton is used it should be interfaced for structure and durability.

Purse Lining: lightweight quilting cotton. Have fun adding a little 'surprise and delight' to the inside of the bag with a printed lining or accent color.

Cutting Layouts

The cutting layouts below are illustrated on a single layer of fabric, with the purse body being cut from all one fabric. The yardage is based on cutting the strap in one single cut, which requires more fabric when a 44" width fabric is chosen. 1" wide webbing can be used in place of the fabric strap. In this case a single purse can be cut from 1/2 yard of 44" wide fabric.
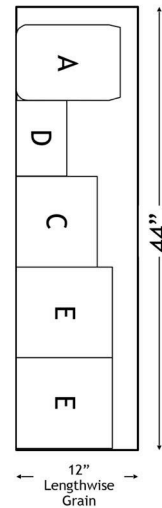
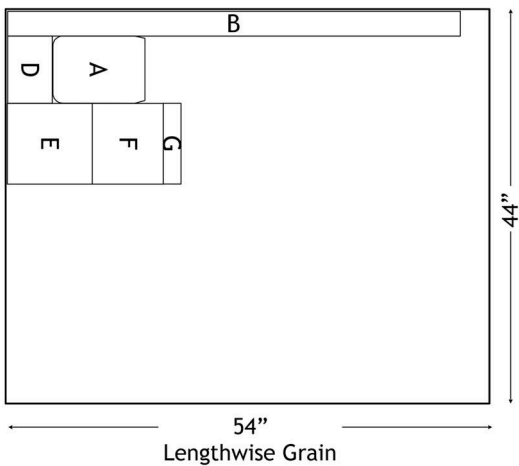**Quilting Cotton (Purse Body):**
Single layer, Interface Pieces A,B, D, F, G

B
D A
C E F G
44"
54"
Lengthwise Grain
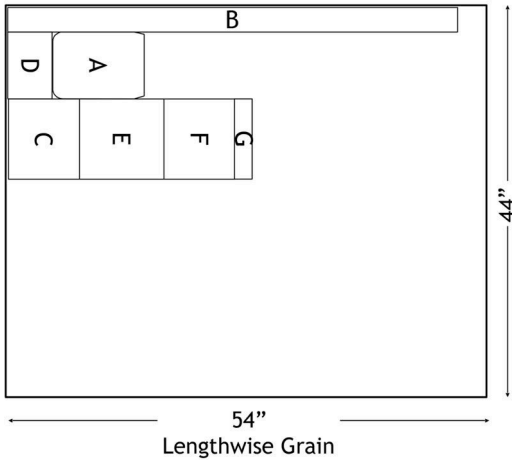
Home Dec/.Upholstery Fabric:
Single Layer, Interfacing Optional

A
D
G
B
F
C
E
54"
18"
Lengthwise Grain
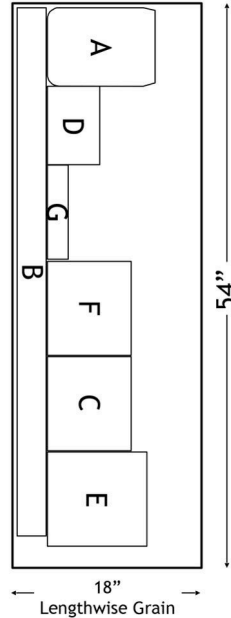
Lining (Quilting Cotton):
Single Layer

A
D
C
E
E
44"
12"
Lengthwise Grain

Interfacing (If needed):

B
D A
E F G
44"
54"
Lengthwise Grain

Pattern Pieces Cut:
- A - 1 Fabric 1 Lining
- B - 1 Fabric
- C - 1 Fabric 1 Lining
- D - 1 Fabric 1 Lining
- E - 1 Fabric 2 Lining
- F - 1 Fabric
- G - 1 Fabric

Sewing Instructions

All seams are sewn at 1/4" unless otherwise stated. Be sure to wash and dry the fabric before cutting out your purse. Read through the instructions to familiarize yourself with the construction methods before beginning. If you have chosen to use webbing for your purse strap, skip steps #10-19. If you have questions or would like to share your projects with other Sew Powerful purse sewing enthusiasts - be sure to join the Sew Powerful Purse Project Facebook group!
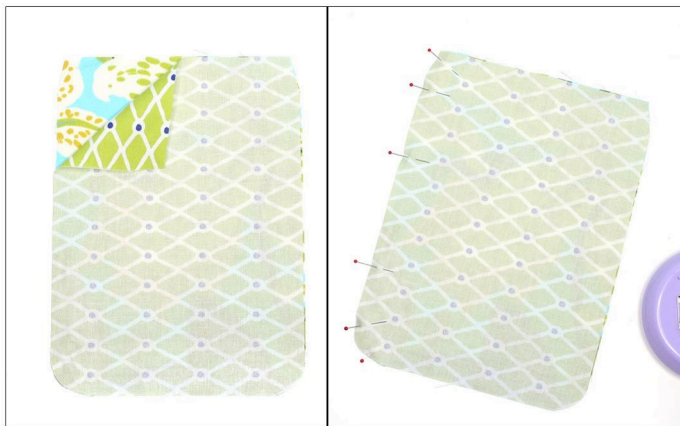
Front Flap - Pattern Piece A 1 Fabric (floral), 1 Lining (geometric print)
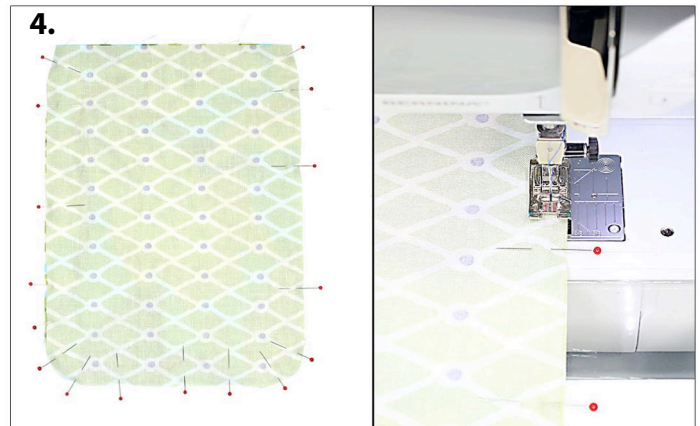
1.

**Step 1.** Place Flap Panel (A) fabric and Flap Panel (A) lining on your work surface.

2.
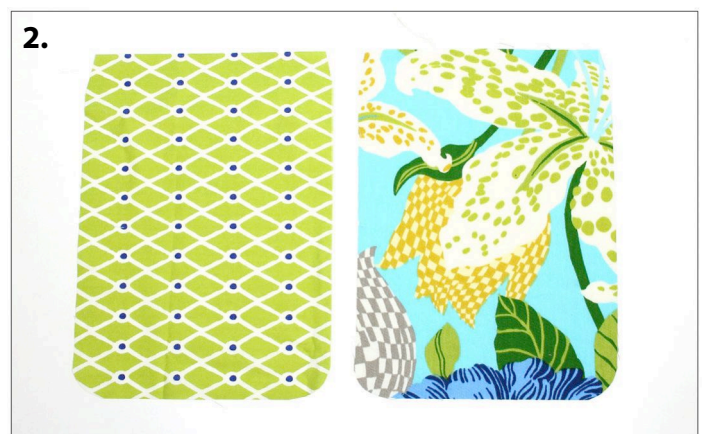
Step 2. Interface WRONG side of Flap Panel (A) fabric, if needed. Note that the top edge is the shorter end with squared angled corners.

Step 3. With RIGHT sides together, pin Flap Panel (A) and Flap Panel (A) Lining together along sides and curved edge.

4.

Step 4. Leave the top straight edge open. Stitch around all three sides.
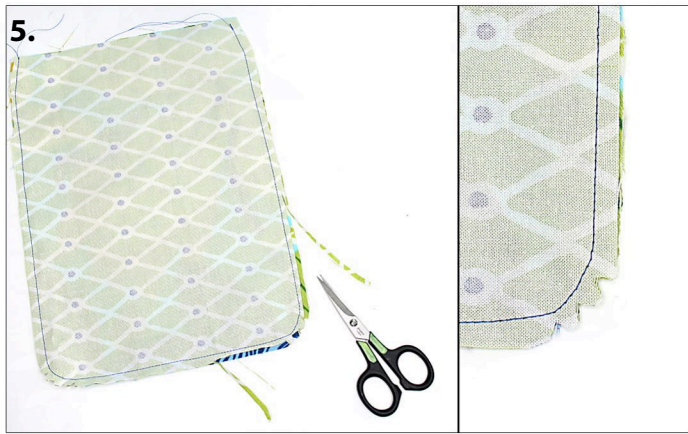
Step 5. Grade seam allowance by trimming one layer of the seam allowance to 1/8" to reduce bulk. Clip corners as needed.

Step 6. Turn right side out by pushing the entire flap through the opening. A point turning tool may help to push out the curved corners smoothly.

Step 7. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front.

Step 8. Edgestitch to finish along sides and curved edge.

Step 9. Set Flap Panel aside.

Design Tips:

Option 1 - Easy: You might like to add piping, ric rac, or ribbon to the flap as a design feature sewn into the fabric /lining seamline.

Option 2 - Easy: Add decorative button , appliqué, or embellishment as a design feature on the front flap.

Option 3 - Intermediate: Use the option A or B pocket styles from the Intermediate Level 2015 Cross Body Purse pattern. The Flap Panels are interchangeable! See additional information on page 20.

Strap - Pattern Piece B (Template) If desired use webbing 1" x 52" & skip steps 10 - 19
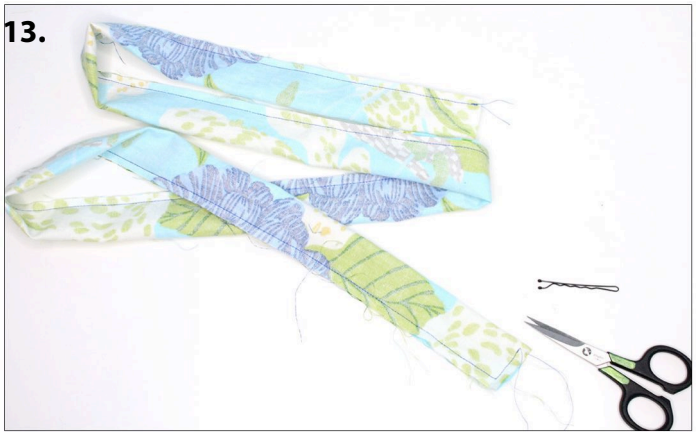

Step 10. Interface WRONG side of Strap (B), if needed.

Step 11. Fold RIGHT sides together along the length of the Strap (B). Pin Strap (B) together along long side.
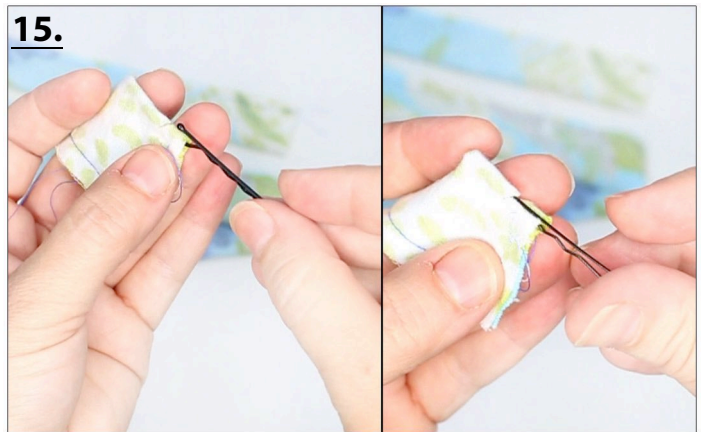

Step 12. Stitch the entire length of the Strap, back stitching at both ends to secure. Press seam allowance open. (This will help it to lay flatter after turning).
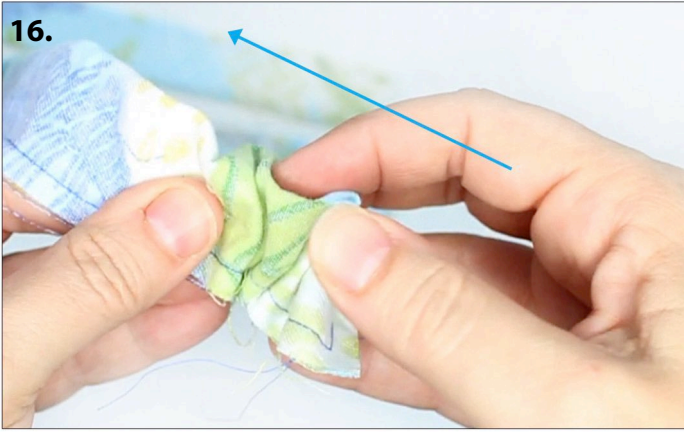

Step 13. Prepare to turn strap right side out. Use a bobby pin or turning tool. Bobby pin method shown here.

Step 14. Cut a very small slit into the fold side of the strap about 1/4" up from the end.

Step 15. Slide the fabric into bobby pin at the large opening, guide the top point back into the tube through the small slit. Push bobby pin all the way in.

Step 16. Push the bobby pin through the tube, until it comes out the opposite end.

Step 17. Slide fabric back over itself, tube will turn completely right side out.

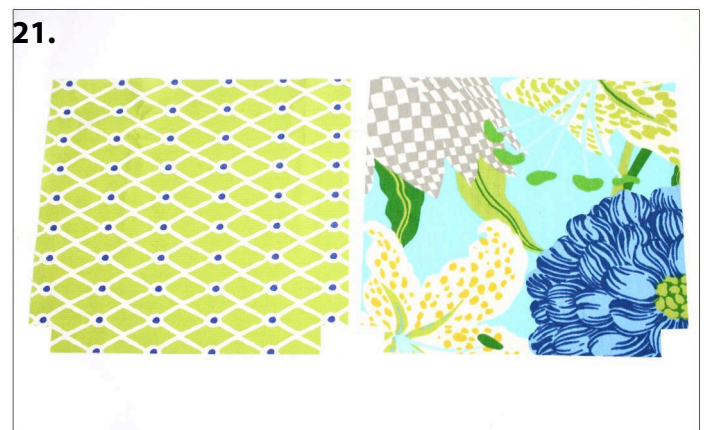**Step 18.** Align the seam at either the edge or down the middle. Press.

Step 19. Edgestitch to finish along both long edges of the Strap (B). Set aside.
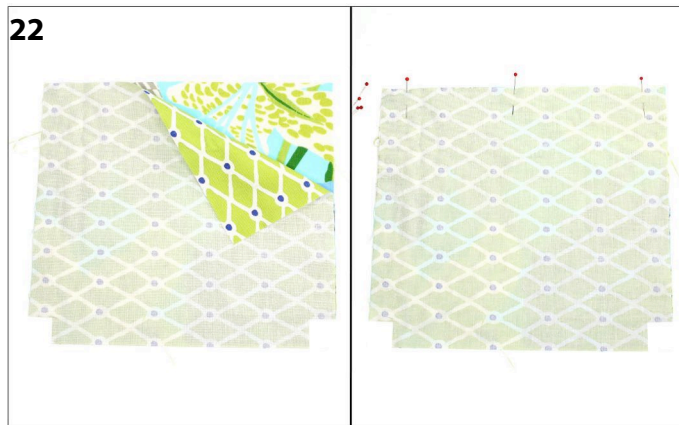
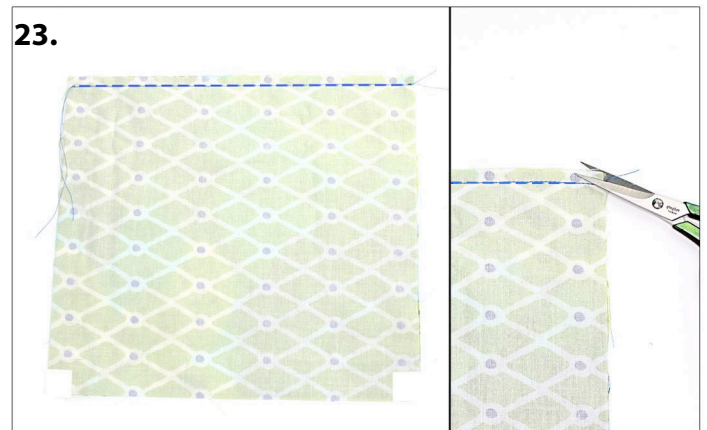## Large Slip Pocket - Pattern Piece C - 1 Fabric, 1 Lining

Step 20. Bring Large Slip Pocket (C) and Large Slip Pocket (C) Lining to your work surface.

Step 21. Place both pieces RIGHT side up. Notice the bottom edge has the notched corners for the box pleats.

Step 22. With RIGHT sides together, pin Large Slip Pocket (C) to Large Slip Pocket (C) Lining along the top edge.

**Step 23.** Stitch along top edge. Grade seam allowance to reduce bulk.

Step 24. Fold over along seam line with WRONG sides together. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front.

Step 25. Edgestitch to finish along the top edge. Set aside Large Slip Pocket.
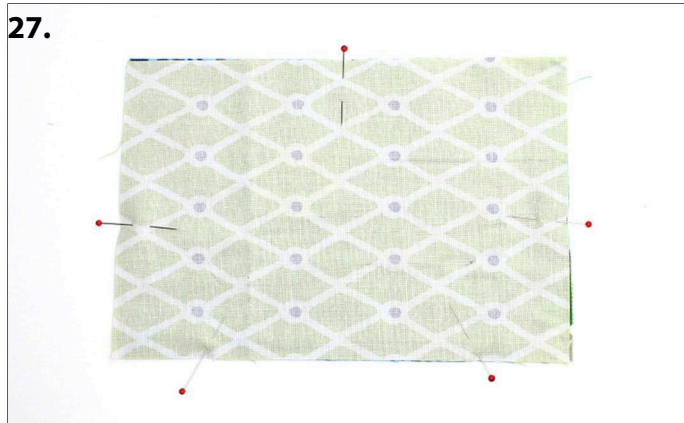
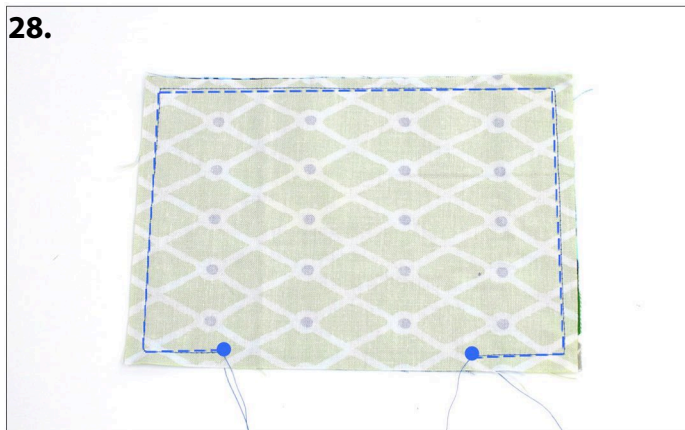## Small Interior Slip Pocket - Pattern Piece D 1 Fabric, 1 Lining.

26.
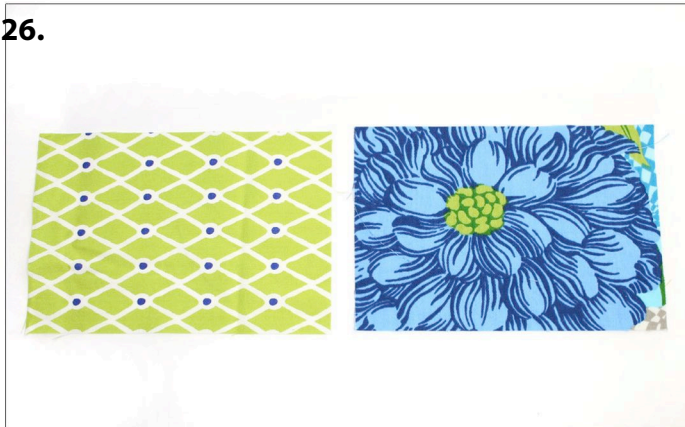
Step 26. Place the Small Slip Pocket (D) fabric and lining on you work surface, RIGHT side up.

27.

Step 27. With RIGHT sides together, pin Small Slip Pocket (D) to Small Slip Pocket (D) Lining along the top, side and bottom edges.

28.

Step 28. Leave a 4 inch opening at the bottom for turning. Stitch. **NOTE: Back stitching at the edges of the opening for turning helps secure the opening during turning.**

29.

Step 29. Clip corners and trim seams as needed. Turn right side out.

30.

Step 30. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front.
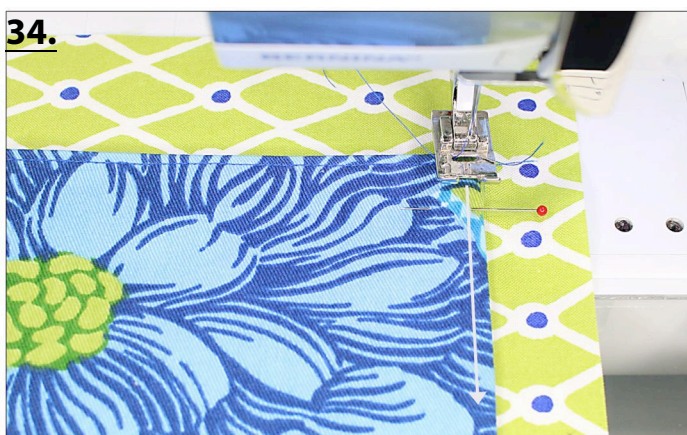
31.

Step 31. Pin the opening at the bottom. Edgestitch along the TOP of the pocket only.

32.

Step 32. With RIGHT sides facing up, place the Small Slip Pocket (D) on top of the Purse Body Front (E) Lining.

33.

Step 33. Center and align top of Small Slip Pocket (D) to 1 ¾" from the top of the Purse Body Front (E) Lining.

34.

Step 34. Stitch down the sides and across the bottom of the Small Slip Pocket (D). Note that the stitching along the bottom of the Small Slip Pocket (D) will close the opening used for turning.

35.

Step 35. Top of pocket should be open. Set aside Purse Body Front (E) Lining.

Purse Body Front: Pattern Pieces E, 1 Fabric and Large Slip Pocket (C)
Purse Body Back: Pattern Piece F & G 1 Fabric, Front Flap Panel
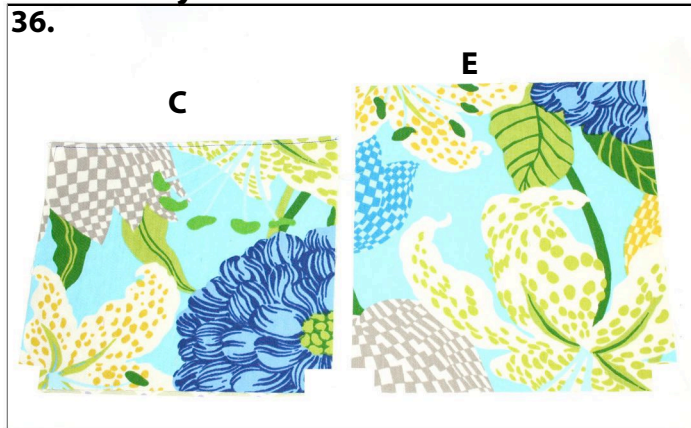
36.

C

E

Step 36. Interface WRONG side of Purse Body Front (E), if needed. With RIGHT sides facing up, place the Large Slip Pocket (C) on top of the Purse Body Front (E).

37.

Purse Body (E)

Lining Side

Large Slip Pocket Fabric
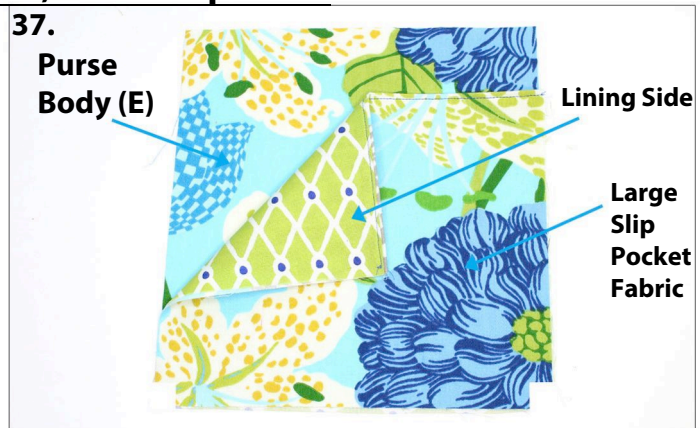
Step 37. Center and align top of Large Slip Pocket (C) to 1 ¾" from the top of the Purse Body Front (E).

38.

Step 38. Baste along sides and bottom. NOTE: If you baste slightly inside of the ¼" seam allowance, you will not need to remove the basting threads. Set aside.

39.

G

F

A

Step 39. Interface WRONG sides of Purse Body Bottom of Back (F) and of Purse Body Top of Back (G), if needed. All pieces pictured RIGHT side up.

40.

G

F

A - Lining side up
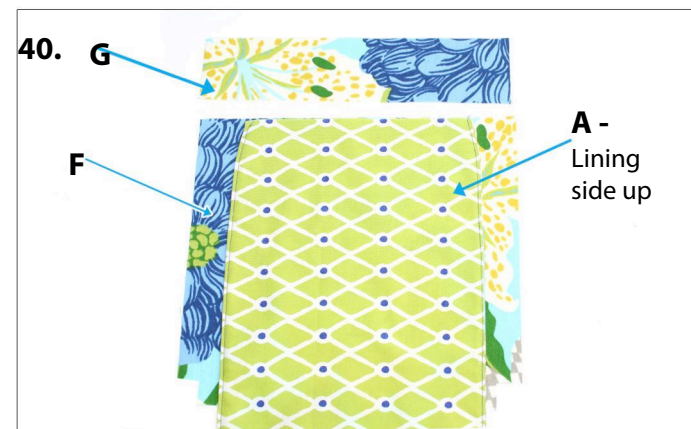
Step 40. With RIGHT sides together, center the Flap Panel on top of the Purse Body Bottom of Back (F) with the top raw edges lined up.

41.

Step 41. With the WRONG side facing up, place the Purse Body Top of Back (G) on top of the Purse Flap. Center and align at the tops. Pin and Stitch through all three layers.

42.
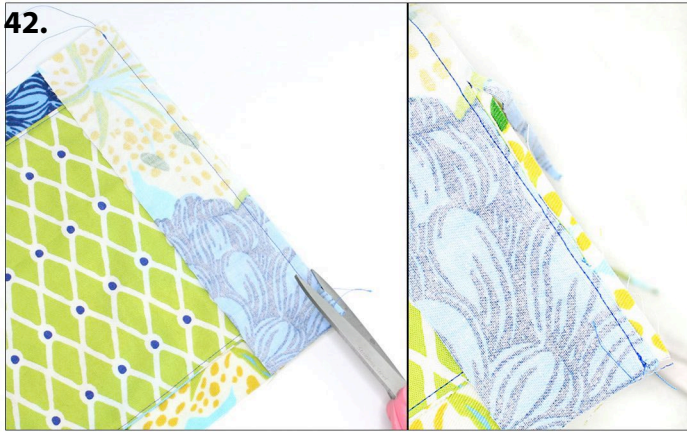
Step 42. Grade the seam allowance to reduce bulk.

43.

Step 44. Fold seam toward the Purse Body Bottom of Back.

44.

Step 44. Press seam allowance towards Purse Body Back. Front Panel Flap will extend up past Purse Top Back. (G).

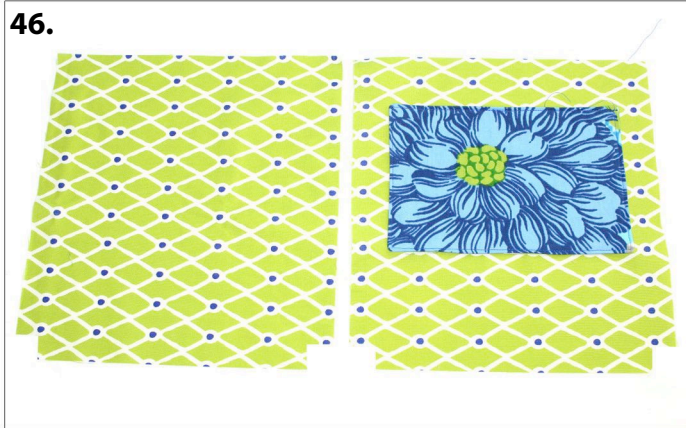**45.**
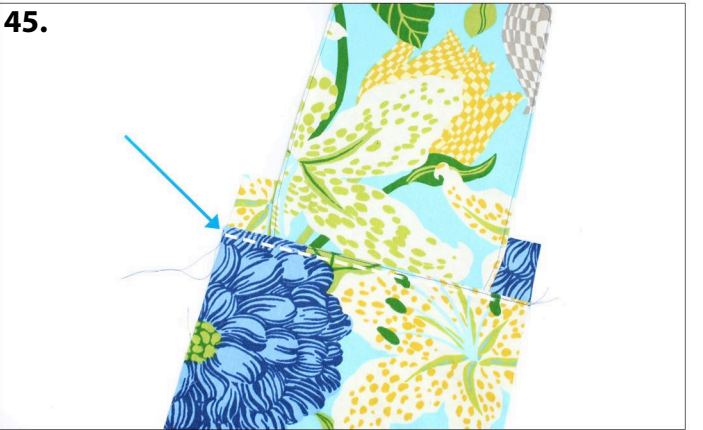
Step 45. Edgestitch along seam on Purse Body Bottom of Back.

Purse Body Lining: Pattern Piece E - 2 Lining

46.

Step 46. Place Purse Body Lining (E) Front and Back, RIGHT side up on your work surface.

47.
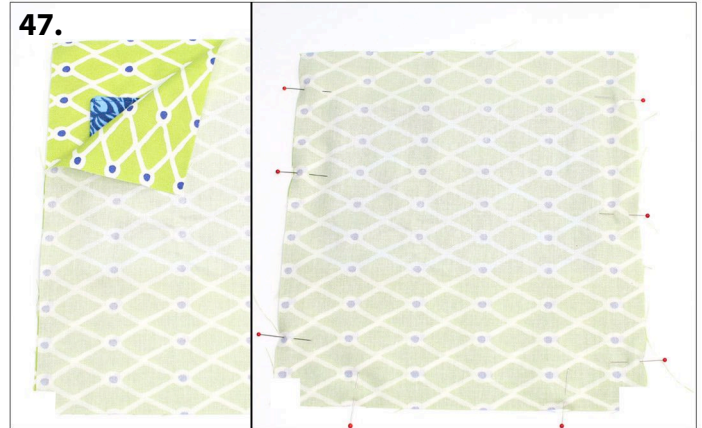
Step 47. With RIGHT sides together, pin the two Purse Body Front (E) Lining pieces together along the side and bottom edges.

48.
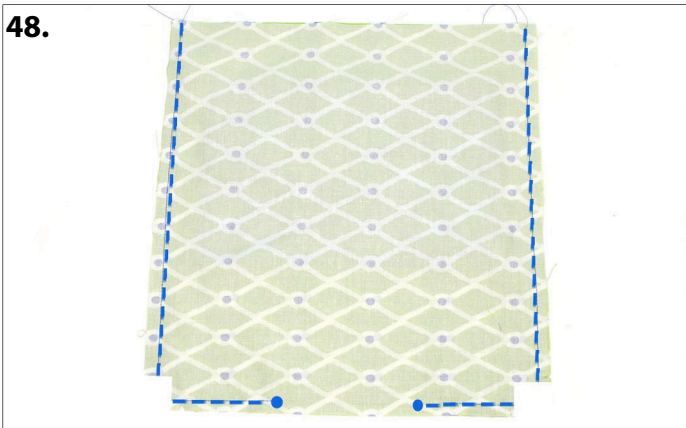
Step 48. Leave a 4 inch opening at the bottom for turning. Stitch. **NOTE: Back stitching at the edges of the opening for turning helps secure the opening during turning.** Press seams open.
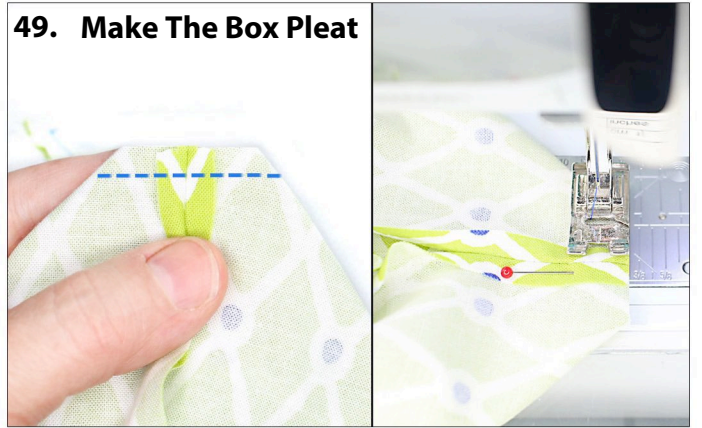
49. Make The Box Pleat

Step 49. With RIGHT sides together, line up the center of the two seams in the center of the pleat. Pull the corner firmly and pin across the corner seam. Stitch and double stitch for strength.

View of the side seam and first box pleat.

50.

Step 50. Repeat step 49 to form box pleat on opposite corner.

Purse Body Fabric: Completed Front and Back

51.
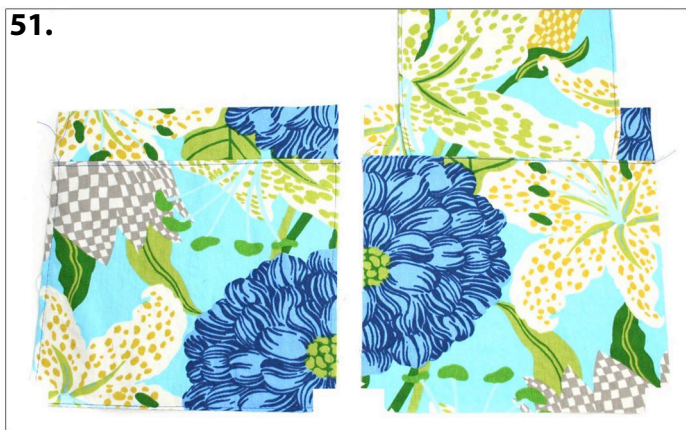
Step 51. With RIGHT sides together, pin the Purse Body Front (E) together with the Purse Body Back along the side and bottom edges.

52.
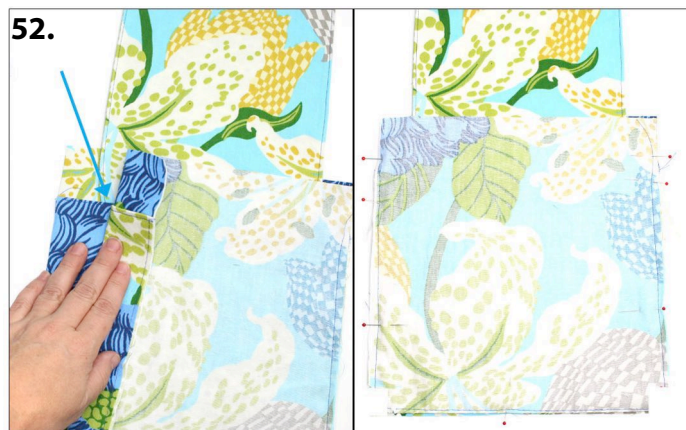
Step 52. Align the top edge of the Large Slip Pocket (C) on the Purse Body Front and the seam between the Purse Body Back Top and Bottom.

53.

Step 53. Stitch. Press the side seams open. Press the bottom seam toward the Purse Body Back.

54.
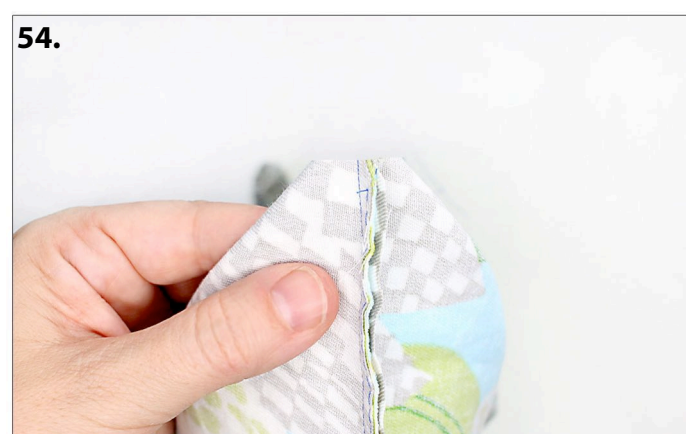
Step 54. Make Box Pleat: While the Purse Body is still turned inside out, take one of the bottom corners. Line up the center of the two seams in the center of the pleat. Pull the corner firmly and pin across the corner seam.

**55.**

Step 55. Stitch and double stitch for strength.

56.

Step 56. Repeat step 54-55 for for the other corner.

Attaching The Strap and Completing The Purse

57.

Step 57. Bring finished Strap to your work surface. Mark 1-1/2" up from both ends of the Strap.

58.

Step 58. With RIGHT sides together, align the short edge of the straps 1 ½" beyond the top edge of the Purse Body. Strap should be centered on Purse side seam. Pin.

59.

1-1/2"

Step 59. Stitch. Notice strap extends 1-1/2" past purse top edge.

60.

Step 60. Bring completed Purse Body Lining to your work surface. Note which side you want the interior Small Slip Pocket to be positioned (front or back). Back placement is pictured above.

61.

Step 61. With RIGHT sides together, put the Purse Body inside the Purse Body Lining. Be sure the Strap and the Flap Panel are both in between the purse RIGHT side and the lining RIGHT side.

62.

Step 62. The strap ends will be sandwiched between the lining and fabric layers at the side of the purse, with 1-1/2" ends extending past the purse top edge. Align top edges and side seams.

63.

Step 63. Pin and stitch around the entire top edge of the purse.

64.

Step 64. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the Purse Body Lining. DO NOT trim off strap ends, they will fold to the inside and help structure the sides of the purse body.

65.

Lining w/ Small Slip Pocket   Flap Panel   Purse Back

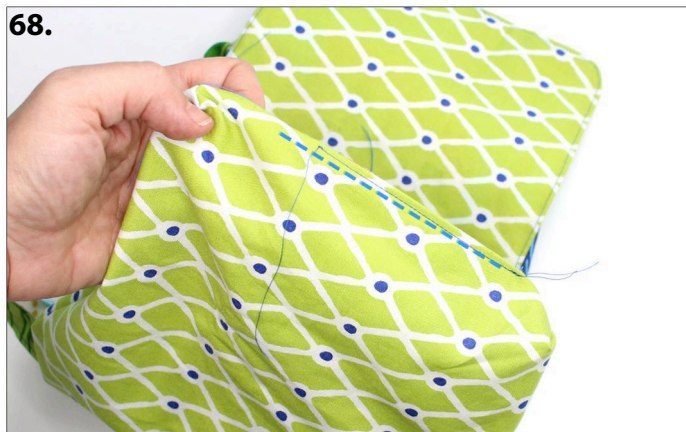**Step 65.** Pictured above - Bag turned right side out. lining to the left purse body to the right.

66.

Step 66. Pictured above - Bag turned right side out, front side up The lining is to the left, purse body with large slip pocket to the right.

67.

Step 67. Fold seam allowance edges in along the lining opening. Pin.

68.

Step 68. Sew the opening of the Purse Body Lining closed.

69.

Step 69. Push lining inside of the Purse Body. Align the top edge of the Purse Body.

70.

Step 70. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the inside of the Purse Body so the lining does not show.

71.
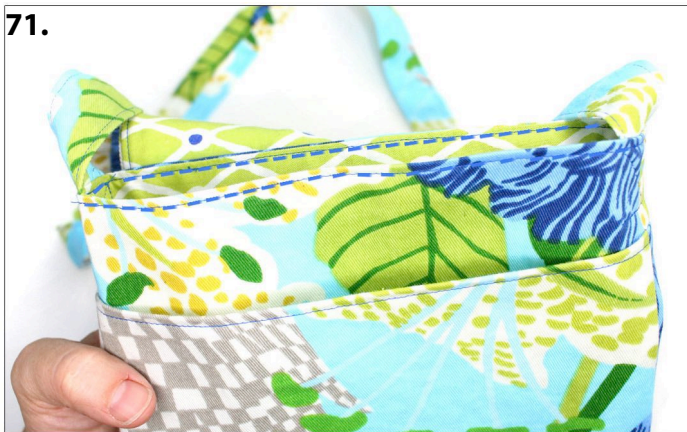
Step 71. Edge stitch along the top edge.

72.

Step 72. Sew a square box through the Purse Body and Strap. The top edge of the box should over stitch the edge stitching on the top of the Purse Body. The sides of the square box should align with the edge stitching on the strap. Also stitch an X from corner to corner of the square box.

Cross Body
PURSE

Interchangeable Flap Panels - Additional Information:

Would you like to add a bit more detail to this simplified purse design? This purse is compatible with the Intermediate level Cross Body Purse Pattern. The Option A and Option B Flap Panels can be used in place of the Basic Front Flap Panel included with this design. To make this modification, simply use the corresponding pattern pieces and follow the instructions to make either Front Flap Panel and then continue with step #10 in this pattern to complete your Sew Powerful Purse!

Option B

Option A

Flap Panel Option A: Use pattern pieces 1,2,3,4,5 (from the 2015 pattern) and follow the sewing instructions on page number 3-7 (steps 1-16). The continue with page 8 step #10, in this pattern to complete your purse.

Flap Panel Option B: Use pattern pieces 12.13,14,15,16,17 (from the 2015 pattern) and follow the sewing instructions on page number 8-12 (steps 1-16). Then continue with page 8 step #10 in this pattern to complete your purse.

If you don't have a copy of the 2015 Intermediate level Cross Body Purse pattern, you can find a copy in the Facebook Group "Sew Powerful Purse Project" files section.

2018 Sew Powerful Purse Summary of Instructions

Flap Panel:
1. Interface WRONG side of Flap Panel (A), if needed. With RIGHT sides together, pin Flap Panel (A) and Flap Panel (A) Lining together along sides and curved edge. Leave the top straight edge open. Stitch.

2. Clip corners as needed. Turn right side out. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front.

3. Edgestitch to finish along sides and curved edge. Set aside.

Strap:
4. Interface WRONG side of Strap (B), if needed. Fold RIGHT sides together along the length of the Strap (B). Pin Strap (B) together along long side and one short side. Stitch.

5. Turn Strap (B) right side out with a turning tool or "Bobby Pin Method". Cut a very small slit into the fold side of the strap about 1/4" up from the end. Slide the fabric into bobby pin at the large opening, guide the top point back into the tube through the small slit. Push bobby pin all the way in. Push the bobby pin through the tube, until it comes out the opposite end. Slide fabric back over itself, tube will turn completely right side out.

6. Align the seam at either the edge or down the middle. Press.

7. Edgestitch to finish along both long edges of the Strap (B). Set aside.

Pockets:
8. With RIGHT sides together, pin Large Slip Pocket (C) to Large Slip Pocket (C) Lining along the top edge. Stitch.

9. Fold over along seam line with WRONG sides together. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front.

10. Edgestitch to finish along the top edge. Set aside.

11. With RIGHT sides together, pin Small Slip Pocket (D) to Small Slip Pocket (D) Lining along the top, side and bottom edges. Leave a 4 inch opening at the bottom for turning. Stitch. **NOTE: Back stitching at the edges of the opening for turning helps secure the opening during turning.**

12. Clip corners and trim seams as needed. Turn right side out. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the underside of the fabric so the lining does not show from the front. Pin the opening at the bottom.

13. Edge stitch along the TOP of the pocket.

Purse Body Parts:

14. With RIGHT sides facing up, place the Small Slip Pocket (D) on top of the Purse Body Front (E) Lining. Center and align top of Small Slip Pocket (D) to 1 ¾" from the top of the Purse Body Front (E) Lining.

15. Stitch down the sides and across the bottom of the Small Slip Pocket (D). Note that the stitching along the bottom of the Small Slip Pocket (D) will close the opening used for turning. Set aside.

16. Interface WRONG side of Purse Body Front (E), if needed. With RIGHT sides facing up, place the Large Slip Pocket (C) on top of the Purse Body Front (E). Center and align top of Large Slip Pocket (C) to 1 ¾" from the top of the Purse Body Front (E). Baste along sides and bottom. NOTE: If you baste slightly inside of the ¼" seam allowance, you will not need to remove the basting threads. Set aside.

17. Interface WRONG sides of Purse Body Bottom of Back (F) and of Purse Body Top of Back (G), if needed. With RIGHT sides together, center the Flap Panel on top of the Purse Body Bottom of Back (F) with the top raw edges lined up. **Note: The Lining side of the Flap Panel will be facing up. **

18. With the WRONG side facing up, place the Purse Body Top of Back (G) on top of the Purse Flap. Center and align at the tops. Pin all three layers together. Stitch through all three layers.

19. Press seam toward the Purse Body Bottom of Back. Edgestitch along seam on Purse Body Bottom of Back.

Purse Body Construction:

20. With RIGHT sides together, pin the two Purse Body Front (E) Lining pieces together along the side and bottom edges. Leave a 4 inch opening at the bottom for turning. Stitch. **NOTE: Back stitching at the edges of the opening for turning helps secure the opening during turning.**

21. Trim the bottom corners for the Box Pleat. Press all the seams open.

22. While the Lining is still turned inside out, take one of the bottom corners. Line up the center of the two seams in the center of the pleat. Pull the corner firmly and pin across the corner seam. Stitch and double stitch for strength. Repeat for the other corner.

23. With RIGHT sides together, pin the Purse Body Front (E) together with the Purse Body Back along the side and bottom edges. Align the top edge of the Large Slip Pocket (C) on the Purse Body Front and the seam between the Purse Body Back Top and Bottom. Stitch. Press the side seams open. Press the bottom seam toward the Purse Body Back.

24. Trim the bottom corners for the Box Pleat. Press the side seams open. Press the bottom seam toward the Purse Body Back.

25. While the Purse Body is still turned inside out, take one of the bottom corners. Line up the center of the two seams in the center of the pleat. Pull the corner firmly and pin across the corner seam. Stitch and double stitch for strength. Repeat for the other corner.

26. With RIGHT sides together, center the short edges of the completed Strap (B) with the side seams on the exterior of the Purse Body extending 1-1/2" from the top edge. **NOTE: Make sure there is no twist in the Strap(B).** Pin and baste in place.

27. With RIGHT sides together, put the Purse Body inside the Purse Body Lining. The Strap (B) will be sandwiched between the layers. The middle of the strap can be pulled out the opening of Purse Body Lining. **NOTE: The Flap Panel should be on the side of the Purse Body Lining with the Small Slip Pocket (D).** Align the top edges and the side seams. Pin and stitch.

28. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the Purse Body Lining. Sew the opening of the Purse Body Lining closed.

29. Push the Lining to the inside of the purse body. Align the top edge of the Purse Body. Press flat with the lining slightly rolled to the inside of the Purse Body so the lining does not show. Edge stitch along the top edge.

30. Sew a decorative seam through the purse and strap, at the side seams, for additional stability and durability. Sew a square box through the Purse Body and Strap. The top edge of the box should over stitch the edge stitching on the top of the Purse Body. The sides of the square box should align with the edge stitching on the strap. Also stitch an X from corner to corner of the square box.**

1"

Lengthwise
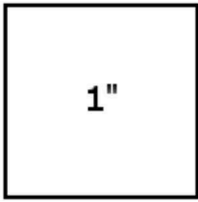
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Pattern Piece
A
Sew Powerful Purse
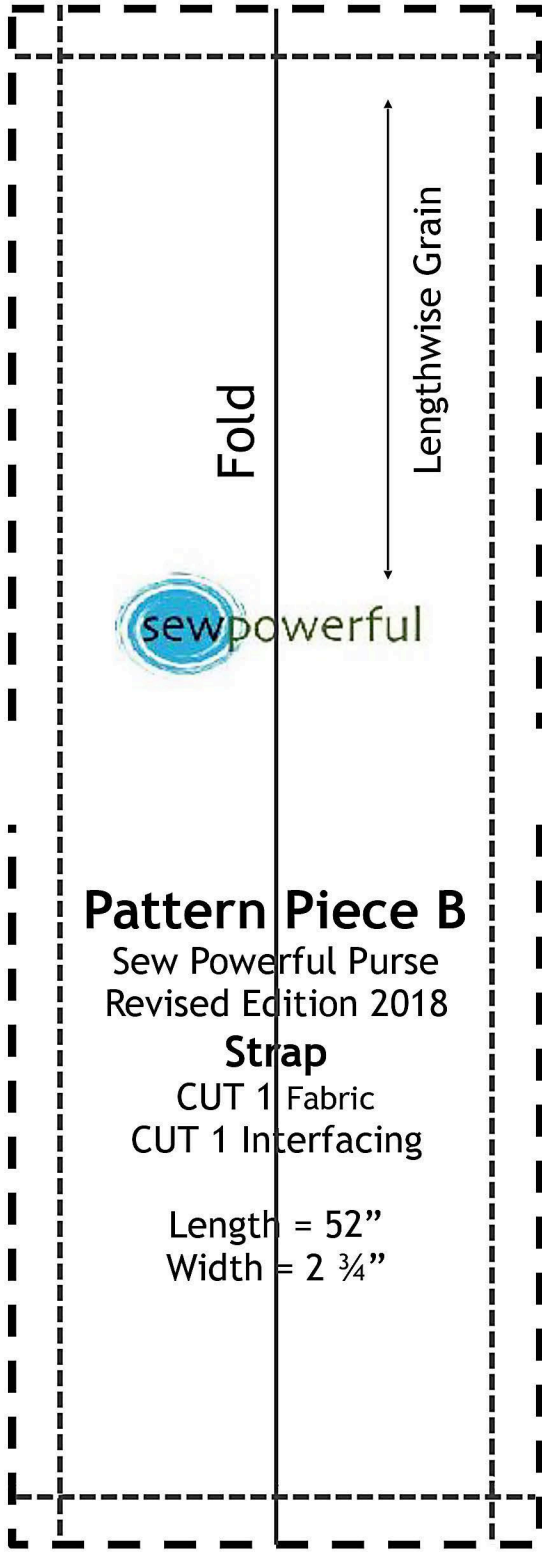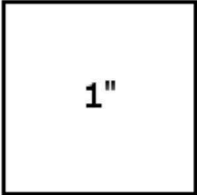Revised Edition 2018
Flap Panel
CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Lining
CUT 1 Interfacing

Height = 10 ¼"
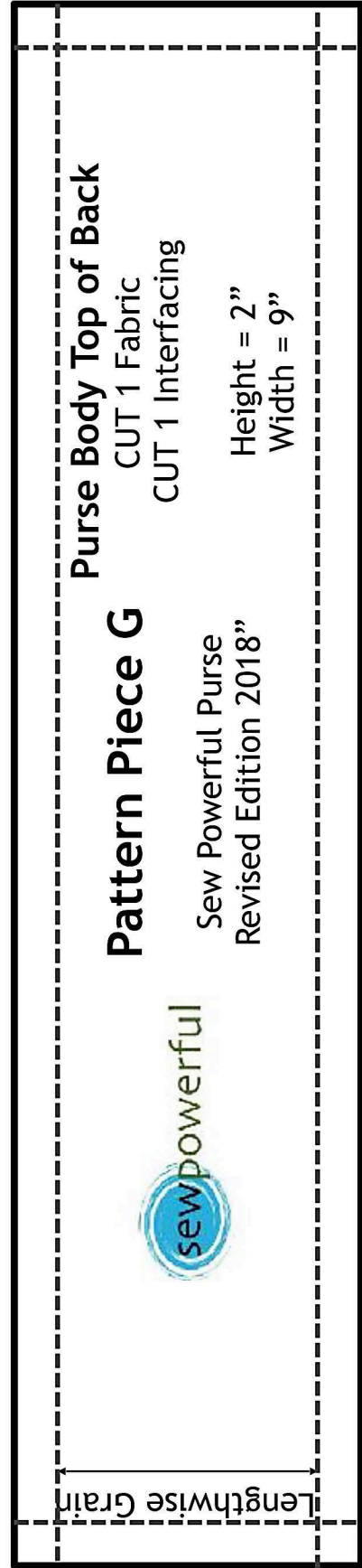Width = 7-1/2"

1"

Pattern Piece B
Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018
Strap
CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Interfacing

Length = 52"
Width = 2 ¾"

Fold

Lengthwise Grain

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Purse Body Top of Back
CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Interfacing

Height = 2"
Width = 9"

Pattern Piece G
Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018"

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Lengthwise Grain

Pattern Piece C AND Pattern Piece F
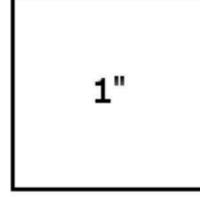
sew powerful

Pattern Piece C

Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018

Large Slip Pocket

CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Lining

Height = 8"
Width = 9"

Pattern Piece F

Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018

Purse Body Bottom of Back

CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Interfacing

Height = 8"
Width = 9"

1"

Cutting Line for Box Pleat

Lengthwise Grain

Lengthwise

Pattern Piece
D

Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018
Small Slip Pocket
CUT 1 Fabric
CUT 1 Lining
Height = 5"
Width = 7-1/2"

1"

1"

Pattern Piece E

Sew Powerful Purse
Revised Edition 2018

Purse Body Front
CUT 1 Fabric
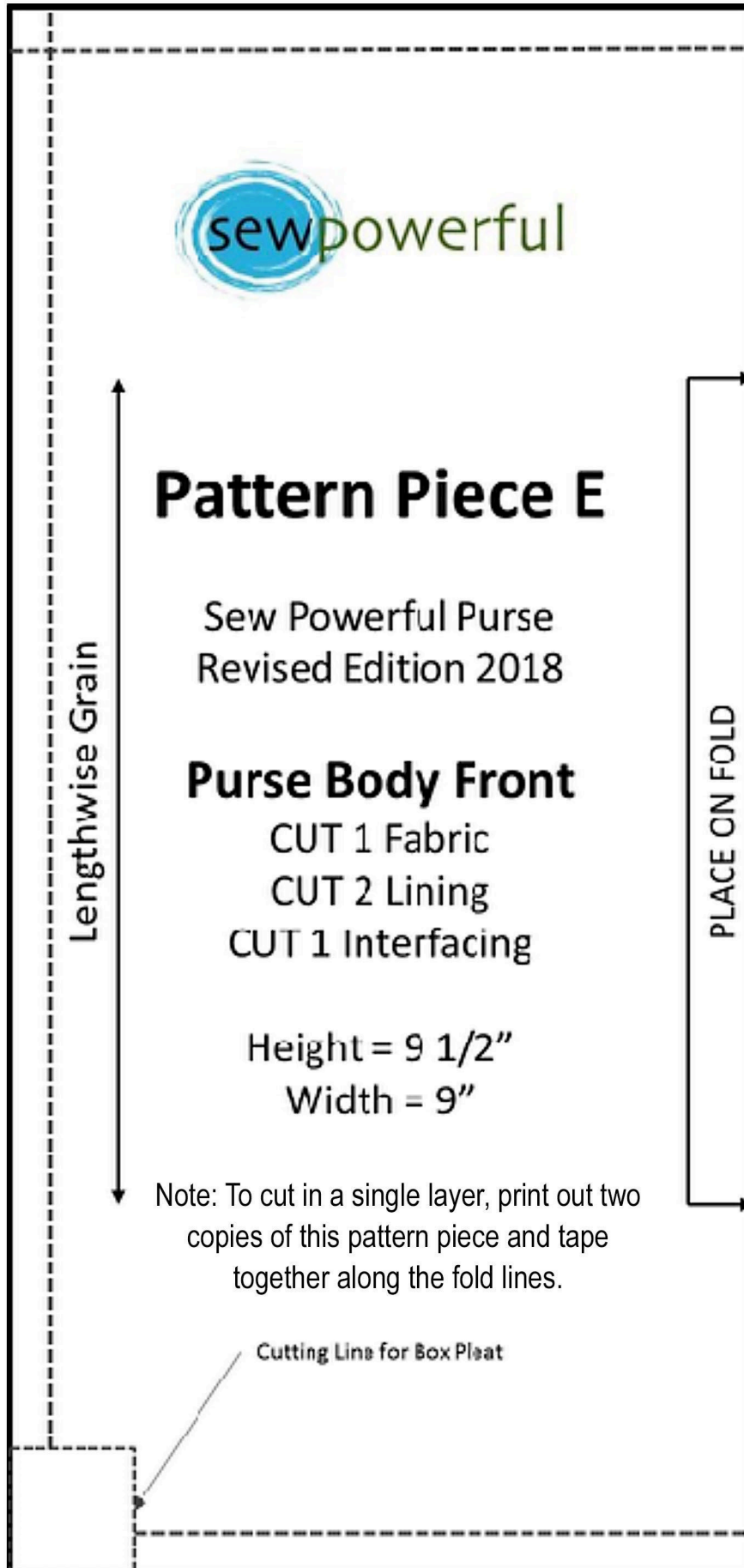CUT 2 Lining
CUT 1 Interfacing

Height = 9 1/2"
Width = 9"

Lengthwise Grain

PLACE ON FOLD

Note: To cut in a single layer, print out two copies of this pattern piece and tape together along the fold lines.

Cutting Line for Box Pleat

DUPLICATE FOR GROUPS & ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS TO WRITE A NICE NOTE TO THE RECIPIENT OF THEIR PURSE - THEN INCLUDE THE NOTE IN THE COMPLETED PURSE

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Sew A Purse. Change A Life!